

Message Text

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ACTION DIWY-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-05 AF-06 EA-10 EUR-12

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SUBJ: WCIWY: PLENARY STATEMENTS, MONDAY JUN 23

1. FOLLOWING IS RESUME OF PLENARY STATEMENTS TO CONFERENCE ON MONDAY, JUNE 23. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION OF CONFERENCE ISSUES, MONDAY SESSIONS WERE TREATED TO ANOTHER SOVIET-CHINESE DISPUTE. OTHER MAJOR SPEAKERS WERE PM OLAF PALME OF SWEDEN, SOVIET COSMANAUT NIKOLAEVE-TERESHKOVA, AND DELEGATION CHIEFS OF PRCE AND FRANCE.

2. PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME, OF SWEDEN, LED OFF DEBATE (ATTENDED BY MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA): THE DIFFERENCES AMONG LIFE CONDITIONS OF WOMEN REFLECT "TREMENDOUS GAPS". THE INJUSTICES BETWEEN AND WITHIN NATIONS "ALSO BASICALLY DETERMINE THE COURSE OF WOMEN'S LIVES". IF WOMEN ARE TO BE LIBERATED, MASS POVERTY MUST BE ELIMINATED. DEMANDS BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MADE IN THE NIEO SHOULD BE MET WITH RESPECT AND NOT BE REGARDED AS A THREAT" "A SHIFT OF POWER IN FAVOUR OF THE POOR COUNTRIES" WILL FACILITATE WORLD CO-OPERATION. DISCUSSIONS ON EQUALITY IN SWEDEN ALSO

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RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR "LIBERATION OF MEN", WHO HAVE

"MUCH TOO LITTLE TIME FOR CONTACT WITH THEIR CHILDREN".

3. DENMARK: (MRS. EVA GREDAL, MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS) HOPED THAT DENMARK'S MISTAKES WOULD AID OTHERS. EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW IS NOT ENOUGH. CONVENTIONAL IDEAS STILL PERSIST; WOMEN STILL ACCEPT MALE PREMISES. BOTH SEXES NEED COURAGE TO LIBERATE THEMSELVES FROM TRADITIONAL CONCEPTS. THE HUMAN FACTOR ESSENTIAL IN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. WOMEN HAVE SPECIAL QUALITIES SUCH AS SENSITIVITY, INDULGENCE, AND TOLERANCE TO CONTRIBUTE WHILE MEN HAVE HAD TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR POWER.

4. FIGI: (MS. ADI LOSALINI DOVI, ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT). EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT WOULD ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT. THE CONFERENCE SHOULD ELABORATE ON PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE BUCHAREST WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION. FIRST, IT SHOULD UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPLETE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN AFFAIRS, AND SECOND, IT "MUST FORMULATE AN ACCEPTABLE AND BALANCE POLITICAL INSTRUMENT WHICH WILL COMPREHENSIVELY GUARANTEE THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN ALL SECTORS".

5. YUGOSLAVIA: (MS. VIDA TOMSIC). THE LEVEL OF WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INDICATORS OF DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN A GIVEN SOCIETY. YUGOSLAVIA REJECTS THE SIMPLIFICATION THAT HALF OF HUMANITY, WOMEN, IS STRUGGLING FOR WHAT THE OTHER HALF, MEN, ALREADY HAVE. BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ARE VICTIMS OF SYSTEMS OF EXPLOITATION RESISTANT TO CHANGES, OFTEN BECAUSE MANY TIMES THOSE SYSTEMS ARE SUPPORTED BY FOREIGN VESTED INTERESTS. "THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM SEEK TO HOLD ON TO THEIR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRIVILEGES AND MONOPOLIES." EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS HAVE A SOLID BASIS AND FRAMEWORK IN THE NIEO AND CERDS. YUGOSLAVIA REJECTS THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT AS TOO EXCLUSIVE AND SEES WOMEN A PART OF A UNITED FORCE OF WORKING PEOPLE THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO ACHIEVE NEW SOCIAL POSITION ON UNCLASSIFIED

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THE BASIS OF THEIR OWN LABOUR AND NOT ACCORDING TO THEIR POSITION IN THE FAMILY OR ON THE BASIS OF PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF MEANS OF PRODUCTION.

6. NORWAY: (MS. INGER LOUISE VALLE). WOMEN HAVE MANY PROBLEMS IN COMMON DESPITE DIFFERENCES IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF THE POWER STRUCTURE IN ALL COUNTRIES. SUCH AN "UNBALANCED

DISTRIBUTION OF POWER IS CONTRARY TO JUSTICE AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES". THE INSUFFICIENT PRIORITY GIVEN TO FAMILY PLANNING AND NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS DEMONSTRATES A GENERAL LACK OF WOMEN IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. THE PLAN OF ACTION MUST STRESS THE NEED TO CHANGE POWER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SEXES AND GIVE WOMEN EQUAL INFLUENCE IN DECISION-MAKING IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE SHALL HAVE TO DEVOTE A GREAT DEAL MORE OF OUR ATTENTION TO THE STATUS AND CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN. EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES CAN NOT BE OBTAINED SOLELY THROUGH LEGISLATION. BUT LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ARE A PREREQUISITE OF REAL EQUALITY.

7. ITALY: (TINA ANSELM, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE). TODAY DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN THE LEGAL AND DE FACTO SITUATION AND THIS IS WHERE IT IS NECESSARY TO ACT. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF CAUSES FOR THIS DIFFERENCE, ECONOMIC CAUSES AND CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CAUSES. EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE EQUALITY MUST AIM AT INFLUENCING ECONOMIC STRUCTURES AS WELL AS THE RIGOROUS DIVISION OF ROLES. HUMANITY, AND PARTICULARLY WOMEN, THE NEW GENERATIONS, AND THE WORLD OF LABOUR HAVE REALIZED THE NECESSITY OF CHANGING SOCIETY TOWARDS A NEW ORGANIZATION OF ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LIFE. ON THE ECONOMIC LEVEL, IT IS NECESSARY FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, DESPITE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, TO REVISE THEIR ECONOMIC STRUCTURES IN ORDER TO REACH A DIFFERENCE BALANCE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING ZONES OF THE WORLD.

8. INDONESIA: (SUNAWAR SUKOWATI, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PEOPLE'S WELFARE). INDONESIA SUPPORTS THE DRAFT WORLD PLAN OF ACTION WHICH IS TO BECOME THE GLOBAL STRATEGY
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FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN. INDONESIA'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN SEEKS HARMONY BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AND STRESSES PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENT OF NUTRITION, FAMILY PLANNING ETC. THE GOALS IN THESE AREAS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF WOMEN TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE.

9. USSR: (VALENTINA NIKOLAEVA-TERSHKOVA, SOVIET COSMONAUT). THE USSR CONSIDERS IT AN IMPORTANT RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT, AND IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. THE PRESENT CONFERENCE, SHOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO END THE ARMS RACE, CUT MILITARY BUDGETS, AND HOLD A WORLD CONFERENCE ON

DISARMAMENT.

10. NIGERIA: (MRS. K.A. PRATT, LAGOS STATE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH). OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORLD, NONE IS SO BAD AS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. THE MAJORITY OF THIRD WORLD WOMEN WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH MEN ON FARMS AND IN HEAVY HOUSEHOLD CHORES. IN ADDITION, THE MARKET WOMEN OF WEST AFRICA ARE "AN ECONOMIC FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH". FORCES OF TRADITION AND RELIGIOUS BELIEFS STILL MILITATE AGAINST IMPROVING THE POSITION OF WOMEN, BUT THESE FACTORS ARE ALREADY BREAKING DOWN. ALSO, "UNSUITABLE INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURES AND UNJUST WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEMS" STAND IN THE WAY OF EQUALITY OF WOMEN.

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11. GREECE: (MRS. VIRGINIA TSOUDEROS, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT). IF WOMEN ARE TO CONTRIBUTE ANYTHING TO PEACE AND EQUALITY, THEY MUST DO IT BY IMPOSING NEW VALUES. WOMEN IN NEWLY LIBERATED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING GREECE, DID NOT WAIT TO HAVE DECREES PASSED WHICH GRANTED THEM EQUAL RIGHTS BEFORE FIGHTING AND DYING FOR THE PROBLEMS THEIR SOCIETY FACED. WOMEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES

WHO HAVE NOT SUFFERED FROM SUBJUGATION OR WARS SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR MISUNDERSTANDING THE SCARS LEFT BY FOREIGN INVASION, DICTATORSHIP, UPROOTING, RAPE, ETC., BUT SHOULD BECOME INFORMED AND HELP ELIMINATE THESE CRIMES. PALESTINIANS, CYPRIOTS, ARMENIANS AND OTHER PEOPLE "NATURALLY LISTEN WITH SCEPTICISM TO PROPOSALS FOR EQUALITY, DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, MADE BY COUNTRIES MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUTRIGHT MILITARY INVOLVEMENT, NEO-

COLONIALISM, APARTHEID BASED ON COLOUR OR NATIONAL DESCENT OR RELIGION."

12. CHINA: (MRS. LI SU-WEN, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS). NO UNCLASSIFIED

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GREAT SOCIAL CHANGE CAN BE COMPLETED WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN. COUNTRIES WANT INDEPENDENCE, NATIONS WANT LIBERATION AND PEOPLES WANT REVOLUTION. THIS HAS BECOME "AN IRRESISTIBLE HISTORICAL TREND". IN THIS GREAT STRUGGLE, THE BROAD MASSES OF WOMEN ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWAKENED. WOMEN CANNOT WIN EMANCIPATION WITHOUT TAKING PART IN THE MAIN STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM -- PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE HEGEMONISM OF THE TWO SUPER-POWERS. BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE CAUSE OF REVOLUTION, WOMEN WILL RAISE THEIR POSITION AND WIN THE RESPECT OF SOCIETY. THE HARSH REALITY TODAY IS THAT THE CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER-POWERS IS GETTING MORE AND MORE INTENSE AND THE FACTORS FOR WAR ARE INCREASING. THE PEOPLE AND WOMEN OF THE WORLD MUST HEIGHTEN THEIR VIGILANCE AND BE PREPARED. SPEAKING LATER IN EVENING IN RIGHT OF REPLY, SOVIET REP (G.P. LISOV) DERIDED CHINESE CLAIMS FOR PEACE STATING PRICE SUPPORTS: "FASCIST CLIQUE IN CHILE, NATO CIRCLES, AND FOREIGN PRESENCE IN SE ASIA" AND MAKES TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST NEARLY ALL THEIR NEIGHBORS. IN REPLY, CHINESE REP (MRS. LI-SU WEN) REMINDED CONFERENCE OF SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ACCUSED SOVS OF PROFITS FROM ARMS SALES, AND SAID IT IS SOVIETS, "WHO ARE PRESSURING FOR REPAYMENT OF DEBTS INCURRED IN WARS OF LIBERATION AND CARRYING OUT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN THOSE COUNTRIES."

13.FRANCE: (MRS. FRANCOISE GIROUD, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE SITUATION OF WOMEN). THE CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE DETOURED TOWARD POLITICAL MATTERS AND THUS RELEGATE WOMEN'S CAUSE TO A SECONDARY LEVEL. SHE INDICATED THE CONFERENCE WAS NOT ESTABLISHED TO DESCRIBE THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

14. SYRIA: (MRS. SALMA NAJIB): IF WOMEN ARE NOT

PUT ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH MEN THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS.
EFFORTS MUST THEREFORE BE INTENSIFIED AT
ALL LEVELS -- INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL -- TO ENABLE WOMEN
TO PARTICIPATE IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND IN
THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE. SYRIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAINING CENTERS SO THAT WOMEN CAN ASSUME
A PRODUCTIVE ROLE SIMILAR TO THAT OF MEN. THE
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ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY WILL BRING WOMEN INTO PRO-
DUCTIVE ACTIVITY. MRS. NAJIB ALSO REFERRED TO THE RIGHT
OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION UNDER THE
UN CHARTER.

15. INDIA: (MRS. PRABHA RAO, MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF
MAHARASHTRA). THE THREE GOALS OF THE YEAR NEED TO BE
TACKLED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ORDER TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT
AND ACHIEVE A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE NOT ONLY FOR WOMEN
BUT FOR ALL MANKIND. INDIA WOULD LIKE TO ADVANCE THE DOCTRINE
OF "CO-PARTNERSHIP" BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN. INDIA SUGGESTS
THE MAIN THRUST OF THE IWY PROGRAM SHOULD BE TO
PROMOTE AN UNDERSTANDING OF EQUALITY IN MAN'S MIND. IT
ADVOCATES SEMINARS, DISCUSSIONS, WORKSHOPS AND SO ON
TO PROMOTE THIS FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN
WOMEN OF THE WORLD IS A PREREQUISITE FOR ACHIEVING THE
GOAL OF PEACE.
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